such cases whenever reported are attended to promptly and appropriate action taken against those found guilty of power theft of different nature.

In order to check the theft of power, guidelines have been issued to all power utilities, including the UPSEB, which inter-alia provide for the installation of meters inside tamper proof meter boxes sealed with number seals, setting up of vigilance squads, conducting of surprise raids to check theft of energy and launching of prosecution against persons found indulging in the theft of energy. The theft of energy has also been made cognizable offence under the provisions of Section 39 of the Indian Electricity Act, 1910 to deal with the offence of theft of energy more effectively. An incentive scheme has also been introduced to motivate State Electricity Boards to reduce their transmission and distribution losses.

Bank's Refusal to Advancing Loan to REC

818. SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the nationalised Banks, recently, have withdrawn the facility of advancing loans to Rural Electrification Corporation, which provides finance to the State Electricity Boards for electrification of villages ;

(b) whether REC's performance for the past three years has been dismal and targets were lower during the year 1989 to 92 in electrification of villages or energising of pumpsets ;

(c) whether there are any revelation's of manupulation of figures and action taken against the Management of REC for wilful and deliberate act of misrepresentation of facts ; and

(d) whether it will be more expedient for the Electricity Boards to secure loans directly from Financial Institutions instead of going through REC which is a large Corporation, and its work can be amalgamated with any other sister organisation e.g. NTPC in order to prune avoidable expenditure ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI) : (a) The Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) has not been obtaining loans from the Nationalised Banks and hence the question of their withdrawing the facility does not arise. However, banks are providing loans to State Electricity Boards for pumpsets energisation programme under Special Project Agriculture (SPA), which is jointly financed by REC, NABARD and commercial banks.

(b) The overall targets for village electrification and pumpset energisation are not fixed by the REC but by the Planning Commission each year in consultation with the State Governments/State Electricity Boards (SEBs) keeping in view the availability of resources, proposals of the States, their past performance, etc. The Corporation has exceeded the target set for the programme funded by the REC during the three years viz. 1989-90, 1990-91 and 1991-92.

(c) Whereas the Annual Plan outlay and the targets for village electrification and pumpsets are approved by Planning Commission, the programme is actually executed by the State Govts/SEBs. The reporting of physical progress against the targets approved by the Government is done by the SEBs/States not only under the REC programme but also under State Plan and the same progress figures are reported by the SEBs/State Govt. to REC, CEA and Ministry of Programme Implementation in connection with the 20 Point Programme. The question of any manipulation on the part of REC cannot, therefore, arise.

(d) Rural Electrification Corporation is a specialised financial institution for extending assistance for development of electrical infrastructure in rural areas, expertise in respect of which is not available in organisations like NTPC, which is engaged in setting up of major thermal power stations.